

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 10-12 are pending in the above-identified application. Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating the allowable subject matter of claim 5 thereinto; and claim 10 has been amended by incorporating the allowable subject matter of claim 13 thereinto. In addition, in response to the Advisory Action of November 22, 2005, the term “thermoplastic” has been retained in the claims.

Allowable Claims 1-4 and 10-12

Since the allowable subject matter of claims 5 and 13 have been incorporated into claims 1 and 10, respectively, it is submitted that independent claims 1 and 10 have been placed into allowable form, along with the other claims which depend from these claims, including claims 2-4, 11 and 12. Therefore, it is submitted that all of the claims 1-4 and 10-12 have been placed into allowable form.

Request for Entry of Claim Changes under 37 CFR 1.116

The presently pending claims have been amended in response to “requirements of form” as indicated in the Advisory Action dated November 22, 2005. These changes to the claims raise no new issues and place the present application into condition for allowance. These changes to the claims at least place the claims into better form for consideration by the Examiner such that all these changes are appropriate under 37 CFR 1.116 (a) and should be entered of record.

Removal of Issues under 35 USC 102 and 103

Claims 1 and 3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ota ‘008 (Japanese Patent Publication No. 06-57008 and English translation thereof).

Claims 2 and 10-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Ota ‘008.

Claims 4 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ota '008 in view of Fenton '224 (USP 4,584,244).

Claims 1-3, 10 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over Itoh '786 (USP 6,610,786).

The bases for all of the above-noted rejections have been removed upon the incorporation of claims 5 and 13 into claims 1 and 10, respectively. Consequently, it is requested that these rejections be withdrawn.

Cancellation of Claims 6-9

Claims 6-9 have been cancelled so as to remove any outstanding issues in connection with these claims.

It is submitted for the reasons above that the present claims define patentable subject matter such that this application should now be placed in condition for allowance.

If any questions arise in the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, Andrew D. Meikle (Reg. No. 32,868), in the Washington Metropolitan Area at the phone number listed below.

Application No. 09/441,199
Amendment dated November 28, 2005
After Final Office Action of July 27, 2005

Docket No.: 2185-0380P

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: November 28, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By _____
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